

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VIENNA 01662 261713Z

73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 AGR-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-02 /070 W

----- 059607

R 261447Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4909

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 1662

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN FOOD LABELING ORDINANCE

PASS AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

REF: VIENNA 1001

SUMMARY: EMBOFF AND AG ATTACHE HAVE HAD DISCUSSION WITH TRADE MINISTRY EXPERT CONCERNING AUSTRIAN FOOD LABELING ORDINANCE. HE WAS NOT ENCOURAGING THAT ANYTHING COULD BE DONE TO MODIFY PROVISIONS OF ORDINANCE WHICH HE INDICATED HAD ALSO BEEN OPPOSED BY DOMESTIC CANNING INDUSTRY. EMBASSY CONTINUING ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF AND AG ATTACHE CALLED ON DR. KLEMENS BACHMAYER IN TRADE MINISTRY FEB. 24 TO DISCUSS U.S. CONCERNS RE AUSTRIAN FOOD LABELING ORDINANCE. BACHMAYER IS IN THE LEGAL SECTION OF MINISTRY CHARGED WITH PREPARATION AND ISSUANCE OF ORDINANCES OF THIS KIND.

2. BACHMAYER REVIEWED BACKGROUND WHICH LED TO ORDINANCE. OVER EXTENSIVE PERIOD THERE HAD BEEN INTENSE DISCUSSION WITHIN GOA AND AMONG INTERESTED GROUPS CONCERNING NEED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VIENNA 01662 261713Z

FOR SUCH ORDINANCE. DOMESTIC CANNING INDUSTRY WAS AMONG

THOSE GROUPS WHICH HAD OPPOSED PROVISIONS OF ORDINANCE FOR SAME REASONS USG HAD CITED IN ITS NOTE. HOWEVER, PRESSURE OF CONSUMER GROUPS, PARTICULARLY CHAMBER OF LABOR AND TRADE UNIONS PREVAILED. BACHMAYER STATED ORDINANCE CANNOT BE REGARDED AS DISCRIMINATORY VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. ALONE SINCE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE PRODUCERS GENERALLY INCLUDING AUSTRIAN PRODUCERS, WILL ALSO BE PLACED AT SAME DISADVANTAGE BY DATING REQUIREMENTS. BACHMAYER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN EFFECT ORDINANCE FAVORS SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE PRODUCERS SUCH AS AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

3. RE CODEX ALIMENTARIOUS, BACHMAYER AWARE OF PROVISIONS CITED IN EMBASSY NOTE, BUT CLAIMED THAT REQUIREMENTS OF ORDINANCE DO NOT BY THEMSELVES CONTRADICT CODEX CONCLUSIONS.

4. BACHMAYER INDICATED THAT AS OF JULY 1, 1975 COMPETENCE FOR FOOD LABELING ORDINANCE WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. IN CONNECTION WITH THAT TRANSFER, ORDINANCE IN QUESTION WILL HAVE TO BE REISSUED AS ORDINANCE OF HEALTH MINISTRY. WHILE BACHMAYER STATED ORDINANCE COULD BE REVISED PRIOR TO REISSUANCE, HE THOUGHT IT MORE LIKELY THAT THE EXISTING ORDINANCE WOULD BE REISSUED WITHOUT REVISIONS. HE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT HOPEFUL THAT PROVISIONS OF ORDINANCE WILL BE CHANGED TO MEET U.S. OBJECTIONS. BACHMAYER IS NOW PREPARING DRAFT NOTE IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S NOTE WHICH WILL REFLECT ABOVE COMMENTS.

5. ECONCOUNS ALSO RAISED MATTER WITH DR. GLEISSNER, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY SECTION OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THIS WEEK. GLEISSNER SAID HE HAD HEARD OF SOME COMPLAINTS FROM BRITISH AND THAT HE WOULD EXAMINE PROBLEM AND GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY. HE CONFIRMED THAT AUSTRIAN CANNING INDUSTRY ALSO UNHAPPY WITH ORDINANCE.

6. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS GOA OFFICIALS ON ORDINANCE.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 VIENNA 01662 261713Z

7. COMMENT: CHAMBER OF LABOR AND TRADE UNIONS ARE POWERFUL GROUPS IN AUSTRIA, PARTICULARLY UNDER PRESENT SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT WHOSE MAIN SOURCE OF STRENGTH IS TRADE UNIONS. WITH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS DUE IN AUSTRIA IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER MODIFYING SIGNIFICANTLY SUBJECT ORDINANCE BEFORE JULY 1. HUMES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABELING, LAW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA01662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750068-0734
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975029/aaaaahuf.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 VIENNA 1001
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRIAN FOOD LABELING ORDINANCE PASS AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
TAGS: ETRD, AU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006